

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend paragraph 28 as follows:

[0028] In the local stethoscope 12, the first analog auscultation signal from the chest piece assembly 18 is fed to the input amplifier 28 where it is amplified. The amplified signal is fed to the encoder 34 through two paths, one direct via a line 54 and one through the first low frequency boost circuit 32. The first low frequency boost circuit amplifies a portion of the first analog auscultation signal having frequencies lower than a predetermined frequency level so as to generate a boosted segment signal. The two signals, the first analog auscultation signal and the boosted segment signal, are electrically combined at the input of the encoder 34. The encoder 34 provides filtering, analog to digital (A/D) conversion, and, in the preferred embodiment, AMD/CVSD encoding. ADM stands for adaptive delta modulation. The best ~~known-specific~~ known specific implementation of ADM is continuously variable slope delta (CVSD) modulation. Although AMD/CVSD encoding is the preferred coding, and has not been used in the prior art in a stethoscope system, it is contemplated that other encoding schemes may be used with the present invention, such as PCM, ADPCM, and a generic ADM, all of which are described in the Background Section. With each encoding scheme, some degree of compression is involved.

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